

Latimer, Becky

From: Latimer, Becky
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 10:15 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Opposition to Duke Energy Carolinas Proposed Rate Increases

Dear Ms. Barbara Wilder,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- Docket No. 2018-319-E - Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2018-319-E - Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order - <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/116872>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Becky Latimer
 Clerks Office/Administrative Coordinator

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
 803-896-5100

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2019 2:01 PM
To: PSC_Contact <Contact@psc.sc.gov>
Subject: Opposition to Duke Energy Carolinas Proposed Rate Increases

Dear Members of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina:

I am writing to express my opposition to the Duke Energy Carolinas proposed rate increases ("Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs," Docket No. 2018-319-E) and to encourage you to reject these proposed increases and adjustments for the benefit of our state and its residents.

I am most disturbed by Duke Energy Carolinas' request to MORE THAN TRIPLE the fixed charge, or basic facilities charge, to \$28/month. This would make the fixed rate the HIGHEST in our country among publicly traded power companies. A study prepared for Consumers Union conducted by Synapse Energy Economics, clearly outlines that raising fixed charges:

- **Reduces Customer Control** - Fixed charges reduce the ability of customers to lower their bills by consuming less energy.
- **Unfairly Targets Low-Usage Customers** - Customers who, for whatever reason, use less energy than average, will see the greatest increase.
- **Disproportionately Impacts Low-Income Customers** - Fixed charges raise bills for those who can least afford it.
- **Reduces Incentives for Energy Efficiency and Distributed Generation** - Energy efficiency actually lowers costs, decreases greenhouse gas emissions, creates jobs, and improves competitiveness.
- **Increases Electricity System Costs** - With little incentive to save, customers may actually increase energy consumption; with a rise in demand, the energy infrastructure costs increase.*

Regarding Duke Energy's claim that these rate increases will support "clean energy," their proposal to triple fees to those who have invested in solar energy certainly does not reflect that, nor do policies which devalue kilowatt hours and discourage energy conservation.

Clearly, Duke Energy's loyalty is to their shareholders, and their decisions are made with profit uppermost in mind. This is why I ask you, those who are in a position of stewardship over our state's resources and their relationship to the residents of South Carolina, to vote on our behalf to reject Duke Energy Carolinas' present proposals in full. In doing so, rest assured that you will be in the good company of many other state commissions who have fully denied similar rate changes across the United States.* Indeed, not only did our neighbor state of North Carolina reject Duke Energy Carolinas' rate increases last June, but fined them \$70 million for their part in the coal ash debacle and ordered them to return \$60 million in deferred taxes to customers.

As South Carolinians join the rest of the country in conservation efforts to preserve this beautiful planet on which we live, utilities who see their profits dwindling will likely engage in ever more aggressive ways to generate profits at consumers' expense. I implore you to deny a proposal which will harm the most vulnerable customers in our state, and which will discourage conservation of our resources. **Please vote against Duke Energy Carolinas' application.**

Respectfully,

Barbara Wilder

Landrum, SC 29356

*http://www.synapse-energy.com/sites/default/files/Fixed_Charges_Factsheet.pdf

*<http://www.synapse-energy.com/sites/default/files/Caught-in-a-Fix.pdf>